

page 1694 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, the amendment that I have had printed in the book is an extension of the bill that I introduced earlier in the session, LB 52. It requires that there be community consent in the form of a vote taken by the people of the county before these sites can be placed there. I think it's a fairly simple, fairly straightforward amendment. There is no, I promise you, no political hanky-panky going on. It is strictly, I think, an offer for us to provide citizens of this state a very basic right, the right to vote on whether they want this placed in their county. I think if we examine the history, we would have to go back to the founding of our nation and the reason that people came here, the reason that our ancestors came to this area. They came here for the freedoms, the freedoms from religious prosecution, from oppression by the kings. They came here to provide themselves with the freedoms that this New World presented and part of those freedoms was the right to select their destiny. That freedom I believe extends to the right to vote on whether they should have these nuclear sites placed in their county. One of the reasons, one of the very important reasons that we feel so strongly about this is the fact that all during the conversation, all during the process ever since we've been talking about the siting process, the right for community consent has been uppermost in the conversation. All facets of the process have talked about community consent. I quote, December 8, 1987. Norm Thorson representing Governor Orr in presenting the ten conditions which you have on your desk, the ten commandments. It says, "Communities resent the fact that a facility could be forced down their throats, consequently one of our conditions is that you cannot site a facility without that community's consent." That was on December 8, 1987. That's a direct quote. On December 18, 1987, "US Ecology nuclear officials will have to prove to us the site meets all conditions. The big one will be community acceptance." This is from Dennis Grams, Department of Environmental Control. And this was said in Omaha, quoted by the Lincoln Star on December 18, 1987. The big one will be community acceptance. On January 10, 1988, a little over a year ago, Governor Orr said, "Nebraska will monitor US Ecology nuclear selection of a site to ensure that the facility is not built near a community that doesn't want it." This was quoted in an Omaha World-Herald